

RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Hengistbury Head New Year's Walk



Date: 4th January 2018
Weather: Overcast and very windy
Walk Leader: Marion Wilson
Attendees: 18

Hengistbury Head is an historical sandstone headland forming part of Southbourne, which is a suburb of Bournemouth to the west and Christchurch to the north, providing wonderful walks with views of the surrounding areas of Christchurch Harbour, Bournemouth Bay and beyond, owned and managed by Bournemouth Borough Council. It's a nature reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a site of international importance in terms of its archaeology and is an ancient monument and ranks as one of the most important such sites in England. The northern slope of the head tails off towards the sea and forms Mudeford Spit and the sand bar closing Christchurch Harbour from the south. The reserve has a number of different habitats for wildlife including woodland, heathland and saltmarsh. It is home to over 500 plant species, 300 types of birds, a superb variety of insects, reptiles including Natterjack Toads and small mammals. It is good site to watch bird migration in spring and autumn and to see wildfowl and waders in winter.

Our walk took place after a period of heavy rain storms and in strong wind, it was also two days after the January full 'Super Wolf Moon', the worst possible time as the spring tide was at its highest when we did our walk! As a consequence the main tarmac road was completely flooded and unpassable by Holloway's Dock. We returned back to the car park via the Ironstone Quarry (now a pond) and a very exposed, windy Warren Hill taking refuge at the Hiker Cafe.

Birds	Flowering Plants
Carrion Crow	Gorse
Snipe	Dandelion
Mute Swans	
Brent Geese	
Wigeon	
Common Cormorant	
Mallard	
Black-headed Gull	
Coot	
Oystercatcher	
Lapwing	
Curlew	
Redshank	
Grey Heron	
Herring Gull	
Teal	
Wood Pigeon	
Magpie	
Robin	
Starlings	



A Waterlogged Hengistbury by Lyn Traves